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December 14, 1999

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Dr. Jane Henney  
Comissioner  
US FDA  
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

In May I sent the attached letter to you, requesting that the FDA take action to reduce the overuse of antibiotics. The most obvious first step is to eliminate use of human-relevant antibiotics as growth-enhancers in livestock. At the very least, a temporary ban on such use, pending further (unbiased) research, should be imposed.

Unfortunately, it does not seem like much progress has been made in this area. First, I strongly encourage you to take action on this. Secondly, could you explain why so little action has been taken so far?

Why is it that, so often, substances and practices are assumed safe until proven otherwise? Obviously, this puts people's health at risk.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,



Gary Geller, Ph.D. (Biology)

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Gary Geller  
1550 Randall Street  
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91201-2747 USA

Thursday, May 27, 1999

Dr. Jane Henney  
Comissioner  
US FDA  
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

I am horrified every time I hear about the development of antibiotic resistance by microorganisms. Effective antibiotics are an incredible gift to mankind and we are *squandering* it.

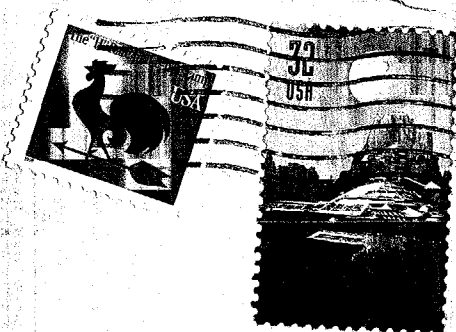
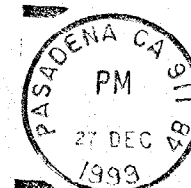
I have been hugely disappointed recently to read again and again that the FDA is not taking many of the obvious steps to help decrease development of this resistance. The most obvious step, perhaps, and one of the simplest, is to eliminate the use of human-relevant antibiotics in animal feeds, like many European countries have done, and as recommended by the WHO.

Clearly, pressure from huge agri-businesses is forcing the FDA to take a short-term, reactive view to this hugely serious problem, at the expense of human health and well-being. You work for the government, which represents the *people*, not large corporations. You should take action that is appropriate to that responsibility.

Sincerely,

Gary Geller, Ph.D. (Biology)

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